

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of protecting neuronal cells from cell death in a subject having or at risk of having a neuropathological disorder, comprising administering to the subject, a neuroprotective amount of activated protein C (APC), thereby providing neuroprotection to the subject.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the APC is administered intravenously.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the neuropathological disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington disease, Parkinson's disease, ischemia, epilepsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, meningitis, multiple sclerosis, mental retardation and aging.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the disorder is stroke and the APC is administered during the stroke or up to six hours before or after the stroke.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises administering one or more antithrombotic factors or APC-cofactors.
6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the APC-cofactor is protein S.
7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises administering one or more additional neuroprotective agents.
8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the additional neuroprotective agent is a N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist or a calcium ion channel antagonist.
9. A method for reducing inflammation in a subject having or at risk of having a neuropathological disorder, comprising administering to the subject, an anti-inflammatory effective amount of activated protein C (APC), thereby reducing neurological inflammation in the subject.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the APC is administered intravenously.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the neuropathological disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington disease, Parkinson's disease, ischemia, epilepsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, meningitis, multiple sclerosis, mental retardation and aging.

5 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the disorder is stroke and the APC is administered during the stroke, or up to six hours before or after the stroke.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising administering one or more antithrombotic factors or APC cofactors.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the APC cofactor is Protein S.

10 15. A method for reducing inflammation in a subject having or at risk of having inflammatory vascular disease comprising administering to the subject, an anti-inflammatory effective amount of activated protein C (APC), thereby reducing inflammation in the subject.

15 16. The method as in any of claims 1, 9 or 15, further comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of one or more anticoagulant, anti-platelet or thrombolytic agent.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the thrombolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of urokinase, tPA, Lys-plasminogen and streptokinase.

20 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the anti-platelet agent is selected from the group consisting of aspirin, dipyridamole, ticlopidine, clopidogrel, abciximab (Reopro) and any inhibitor of platelet glycoprotein IIb-IIIa.

19. The method as in any of claims 1, 9, or 15, further comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an antithrombotic factor or APC-cofactor.

25 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the APC-cofactor is protein S.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the method further comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of one or more anti-inflammatory agents.